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Intelligence Information Report

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REPORT NO. CS-311/06725-71

DATE DISTR. 17 SEPTEMBER 1971

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI EARLY APRIL 1971

SUBJECT VISIT OF TWO AMERICAN POW'S TO THE VIET CONG AN GIANG PROVIN-  
CIAL HOSPITAL

ACQ VIETNAM SAIGON (4 AUGUST 1971)

SOURCE [REDACTED]

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Encl 21 (S-47, 601/03-4A)

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1. IN EARLY APRIL 1971, TWO UNIDENTIFIED AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR (POW), ESCORTED BY THREE VIET CONG (VC) CADRES, SPENT A DAY AT THE VC AN GIANG PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL, WHICH WAS LOCATED IN A CAVE ON GIAI MOUNTAIN, NEAR BA CHUC VILLAGE, TINH BIEN DISTRICT, CHAU DOC PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM. [REDACTED] COMMENT: VC AN GIANG PROVINCE INCLUDES ALMOST ALL OF GVN CHAU DOC PROVINCE AND ONE DISTRICT OF GVN AN GIANG PROVINCE.) BAY M A N H, THE HOSPITAL CHIEF, SAID THE POW'S WERE BROUGHT TO THE HOSPITAL FOR A VISIT WITH THE HOSPITAL STAFF. THE TWO POW'S AND THE THREE VC ARRIVED AT THE HOSPITAL ABOUT 1800 HOURS ON ONE DAY AND DEPARTED ABOUT THE SAME TIME THE NEXT DAY. [REDACTED] COMMENT: ALTHOUGH [REDACTED] WAS QUESTIONED IN DEPTH ABOUT WHY THE POW'S VISITED THE HOSPITAL, [REDACTED] DID NOT KNOW. [REDACTED] SAID THAT THERE WAS NO PLANNED PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE POW'S WHILE THEY WERE AT THE HOSPITAL; THEY DID NOT TAKE PART IN ANY FORMAL MEETINGS OR PROPAGANDA SESSIONS, AND NO POLITICAL OR WAR-RELATED SUBJECTS WERE BROUGHT UP OR DISCUSSED WITH THEM. [REDACTED] DID NOT OBSERVE OR HEAR THAT THEY RECEIVED ANY MEDICAL TREATMENT WHILE THEY WERE AT THE HOSPITAL.)

2. WHILE THERE, THE POW'S HAD COMPLETE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND MOVED AROUND SEPARATELY FROM THE THREE VC. THE POW'S TOOK PRIVATE BATHS AND SHAVED AT THE WELL LOCATED AWAY FROM THE HOSPITAL AREA. THEY SPENT MUCH TIME SOCIALIZING WITH THE HOSPITAL NURSES AND COOKING STAFF, PARTICULARLY THE FEMALES; THEY ALSO VOLUNTARILY HELPED THE COOKS CARRY WATER FROM THE WELL TO THE COOKING AREA. AT NIGHT THEY SLEPT IN THE HOSPITAL CAVE ALONG WITH THE HOSPITAL DOCTORS. THE PATIENTS WHO WERE ALSO IN THE CAVE SAW THE POW'S, BUT THERE WAS NO COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THEM. ALTHOUGH THE THREE VC ESCORTS WERE ARMED WITH PISTOLS, THEY IN NO WAY RESTRAINED THE POW'S.

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IN FACT, WHEN THEY LEFT THE HOSPITAL AREA, THE THREE VC LED THE WAY. ONE OF THE NURSES IN THE GROUP OF STAFF PERSONNEL WHO HAD GATHERED TO SEE THE POW'S LEAVE ASKED THE POW'S WHERE THEY WERE GOING. ONE ANSWERED THAT THEY WERE GOING TO VISIT ANOTHER PLACE (NOT IDENTIFIED).

3. ONE OF THE POW'S WAS ABOUT 32 YEARS OLD, ABOUT 1.60 METERS TALL AND WEIGHED ABOUT 60 KILOGRAMS; HE HAD A HEAVY BUILD, VERY LIGHT AND ROSY COMPLEXION, LONG BLOND HAIR, LARGE BLUE EYES, LONG FACE AND WAS CLEAN SHAVEN. HE SPOKE VIETNAMESE FLUENTLY AND SAID THAT HE HAD KNOWN SOME VIETNAMESE BEFORE HIS CAPTURE BUT HAD LEARNED MOST OF IT AFTERWARDS. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN A POW FOR A LONG TIME. HE WORE BLACK PAJAMAS AND RUBBER SANDALS AND CARRIED A PLASTIC BAG FOR CLOTHING AND A SAFETY RAZOR. HE WAS VERY JOVIAL AND OUTGOING, AND CONSTANTLY JOKED WITH THE FEMALES REGARDING THEIR MARITAL STATUS.

COMMENT: SAID WAS ABLE TO WALK TO THE WELL WITH THE POW'S AND HAVE A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THEM. ASKED THEM IF THEY WANTED TO ESCAPE AND SAID WOULD GO WITH THEM IF THEY AGREED. THE JOVIAL POW SAID THAT IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS AND THEY WOULD NOT DO IT. IF THEY TRIED TO ESCAPE AND WERE CAUGHT, HE SAID, THEY WOULD BE KILLED. DID NOT KNOW WHETHER HE WAS JOKING OR NOT WHEN HE ADDED THAT THEY WOULD WAIT UNTIL THEY SAW AN AIRCRAFT AND WOULD THEN TAKE OFF THEIR CLOTHES AND WAVE THEM TO ATTRACT ATTENTION.)

4. THE OTHER POW WAS ABOUT 27 YEARS OLD, ABOUT 1.70 METERS TALL AND WEIGHED ABOUT 52 KILOGRAMS; HE HAD A THIN BUILD, TAN COMPLEXION, SHORT BLOND HAIR, DARK BLUE EYES, NARROW EYEBROWS AND A LONG GAUNT FACE AND WAS CLEAN SHAVEN. HE WAS FRIENDLY BUT WITHDRAWN AND DID NOT JOKE AS THE OTHER POW DID. HE COULD SPEAK VIETNAMESE. HE ALSO WORE BLACK PAJAMAS AND SANDALS, AND SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN A POW FOR A LONG TIME.

5. FIELD DISSEM: STATE, USMACV, USAID, COMDS, DIR/JUSPAO (MP, LINCOLN ONLY), 7TH AIR FORCE, USARV, NAVFORV, 1021 FAS, OSI 525TH MI GP, CINCPAC, PACFLT, PACAF, APPAC